

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☐ no ☒

Property Name: Second English Lutheran Church Inventory Number: B-5104
Address: 5010 Briarcliff Road Historic district: ☐ yes ☒ no
City: Baltimore Zip Code: 21229 County: Baltimore City
USGS Quadrangle(s): Baltimore West
Property Owner: Second English Evangelical Lutheran Church Tax Account ID Number: 28057993C078
Tax Map Parcel Number(s): _____ Tax Map Number: 28
Project: Red Line Corridor Transit Study Agency: Mass Transit Administration
Agency Prepared By: John Milner Associates, Inc.
Preparer's Name: Katherine Larson Farnham Date Prepared: 8/22/2005
Documentation is presented in: Enoch Pratt Free Library Maryland Room vertical files
Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: _____ Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended
Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G
Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:
Name of the District/Property: _____
Inventory Number: _____ Eligible: ☐ yes Listed: ☐ yes
Field visit by MHT Staff ☐ yes ☒ no Name: _____ Date: _____

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

The Second English Lutheran Church is located on a 3.78-acre parcel at a bend in a side street off Baltimore National Pike. The church and its side wing are surrounded by trees, lawns, and neighboring rowhouses. The adjacent fields of the former Samuel G. Ready school border it to the west. Behind the church to the north is a parking lot, which is not visible from the front.

The church is a two-story gable-front Colonial Revival structure with oblong attached two-story wings housing offices, gathering spaces, and Sunday School facilities. The church building is a gracefully proportioned building faced in Flemish-bond red brick with light stone and wood trim. It has corner quoin details and a projecting drip course at the foundation level. The gabled slate roof has coped end parapets with a step at top and bottom and stone urn finials on the lower steps. At the center of the gable is the steeple with a massive, square, one-story brick base projecting slightly from the front wall. The base contains a center wheel window with four keystones, and is surmounted by a wooden parapet above the cornice. Within the parapet is an octagonal frame lantern with windows on the four primary sides and narrow vents on the other exposures. The lantern windows are original vinyl double-hung sixteen-over-sixteen windows with an arched Palladian transom. The lantern has a shorter, slightly thinner upper section and is topped by a slate-covered steeple roof with a cross finial. The steeple's parapet and lantern areas are surfaced with vertical-paneled vinyl siding.

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Eligibility recommended _____ Eligibility not recommended ☒
Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G
MHT Comments:

John Milner ✓
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

B. Kuntz
Reviewer, National Register Program

7/26/06
Date

8/2/06
Date

200601766

The front façade of the church is three bays wide. Sheltering the doors and windows on the front of the building is a gable-front two-story colonnaded portico. The pediment of the portico has denticulated cornices and a carved "heart of Jesus" motif in the center of the pediment. The columns are smooth Doric-style light stone columns set on a brick and concrete base. The portico floor is slate. The windows on both floors are six-over-six wooden double-hung sash with keystone lintels and stone sills. The center front door is a double-leaf door with three-paneled doors and single-paneled transom areas, set in a slight recess with a gabled broken-pediment surround. The broken pediment is denticulated and has a center urn motif. The side windows of the church nave are stained glass inside multipaned outer windows.

The original side wing of the church is set at an angle running northeast from the rear of the nave. This side-gabled two-story wing is nine bays long and of Flemish-bond brick construction. Its windows are eight-over-eight wooden sash windows with stone keystones above the first-floor windows. There is a double-leaf door entrance in the second bay east of the nave, which has a gable-pediment stone surround, paneled doors, and a multipaned horizontal transom. Just east of the door bay is a brick chimney projecting from the front roof slope.

At a somewhat later date, a cross-wing was added at the end of the original wing. This wing has a gable end facing south on Briarclift Rd. and is three bays wide in front and six bays deep. It is similar to the original wing in detail and its gable end has a full return and dentil detail in the gable. The gable has white clapboard siding. At the rear of this section is a one-story gabled extension, six bays deep.

Extending west from the rear of the church nave is another side-gabled two-story wing, which projects five bays to beyond the main nave. It is unclear whether this section was original or a later addition. A playground is located adjacent to this wing.

The Second English Lutheran Church had its beginnings in downtown Baltimore during a religious revival period in 1841. The first church was built in 1841 on Lombard Street near Greene Street. In 1907 the church was badly damaged by fire and rebuilt in an enlarged form with a new gymnasium. This gymnasium was thought to be one of the earliest examples of a church recreational facility in the city. In the years after World War II, the Second English Lutheran Church became part of a trend of white church congregations leaving downtown Baltimore to follow their membership to new suburban locations. In 1950, the Regents of the University of Maryland needed land to expand University Hospital and acquired the church for \$200,000. This transaction was somewhat unusual in the church-relocation trend, as departing white congregations typically sold their city churches to black congregations, but was probably dictated by the close proximity of the university and hospital. The congregation by then had acquired land at Briarclift and what was then called Edmondson Highway, next to the Samuel G. Ready School, to build a new church. J. Alfred Hamme of York, PA, was selected as the architect, and Paul J. Grubb of Baltimore was the construction supervisor. The congregation removed the pipe organ and other details from the original church for reuse in the new building, as the old building was to be demolished for hospital facilities. The cornerstone of the \$400,000 new church was laid in December 1951 and the building was completed and dedicated in fall 1952. The original side wing of the church was also completed at this time. The new Second English Lutheran Church was planned for a congregation that had numbered 375 in the downtown location. The early 1950s development boom in the surrounding neighborhood swelled the congregation to 1,000 by 1954. Due to the crowding, the pastor, Roland W. Renkel, appointed a planning commission to implement a ten-year expansion program. This resulted in construction of the additional wings, a process completed between 1957 and 1966, at which time the church celebrated 125 years of existence.

The Second English Lutheran Church is a lovely and distinctive late example of a Colonial Revival sanctuary, and contains remnants of the historic original downtown church. It is relatively well preserved, with the only major loss of integrity on the

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Date

Reviewer, National Register Program

Date

steeple, which is now sheathed with vinyl siding and has lost its original lantern windows. However, the original and later wings are a more typical bland version of Colonial Revival style, and not at all distinctive. Though additions to the building have been made in a harmonious way, and the original setting has been well preserved, the cumulative effect of the sprawling generic wings and the steeple alterations diminishes the distinctive qualities of the church to some degree. This congregation was part of a broad Baltimore trend of white city congregations relocating to the suburbs after both World Wars, but it is unclear whether this particular church left due to population shifts and "white flight" (like most others) or the encroachment of University Hospital. The Second English Lutheran Church does not appear to meet Criteria Consideration A and is recommended not eligible for the NRHP.

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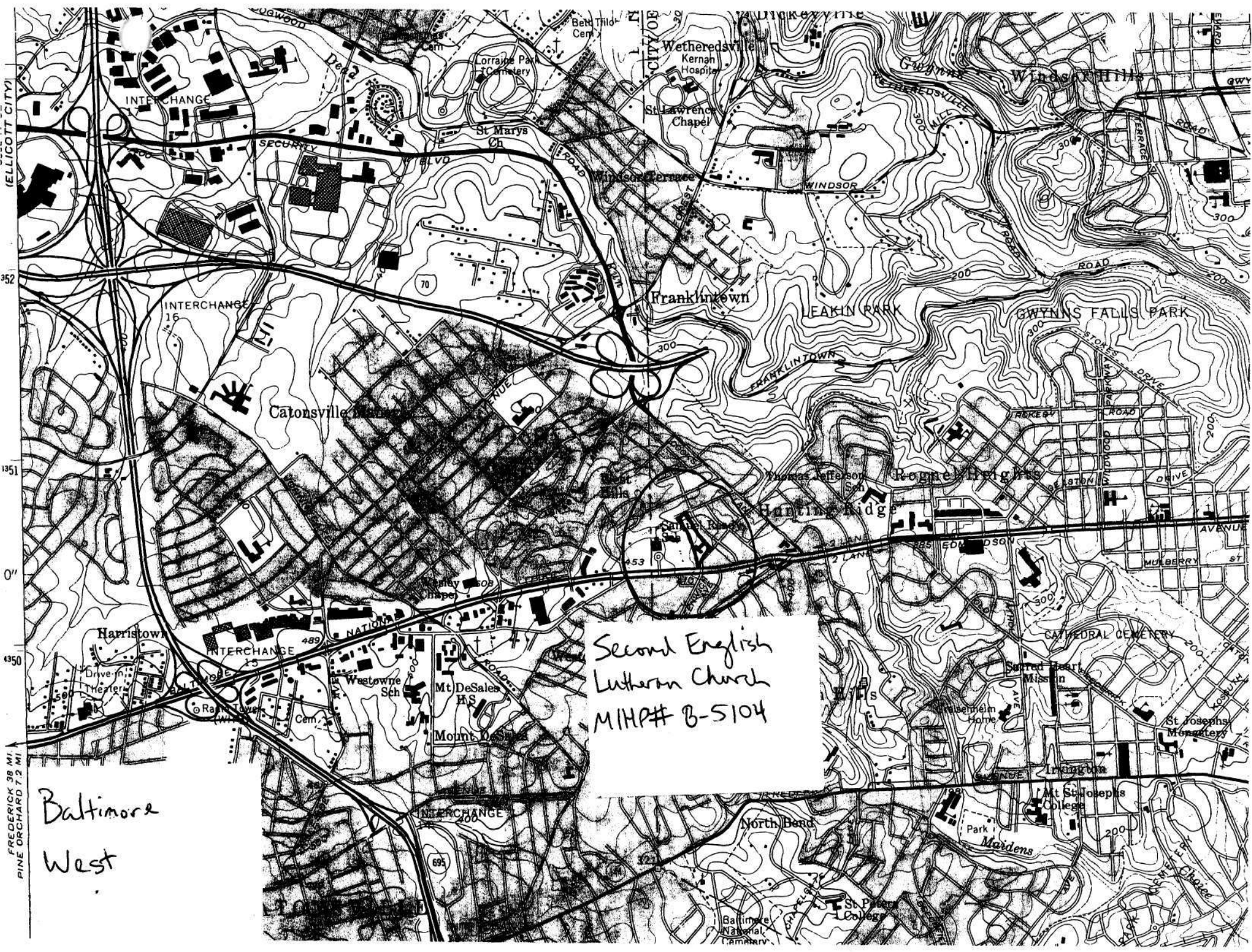
Eligibility recommended _____

Eligibility not recommended _____

Criteria: ____A ____B ____C ____D Considerations: ____A ____B ____C ____D ____E ____F ____G

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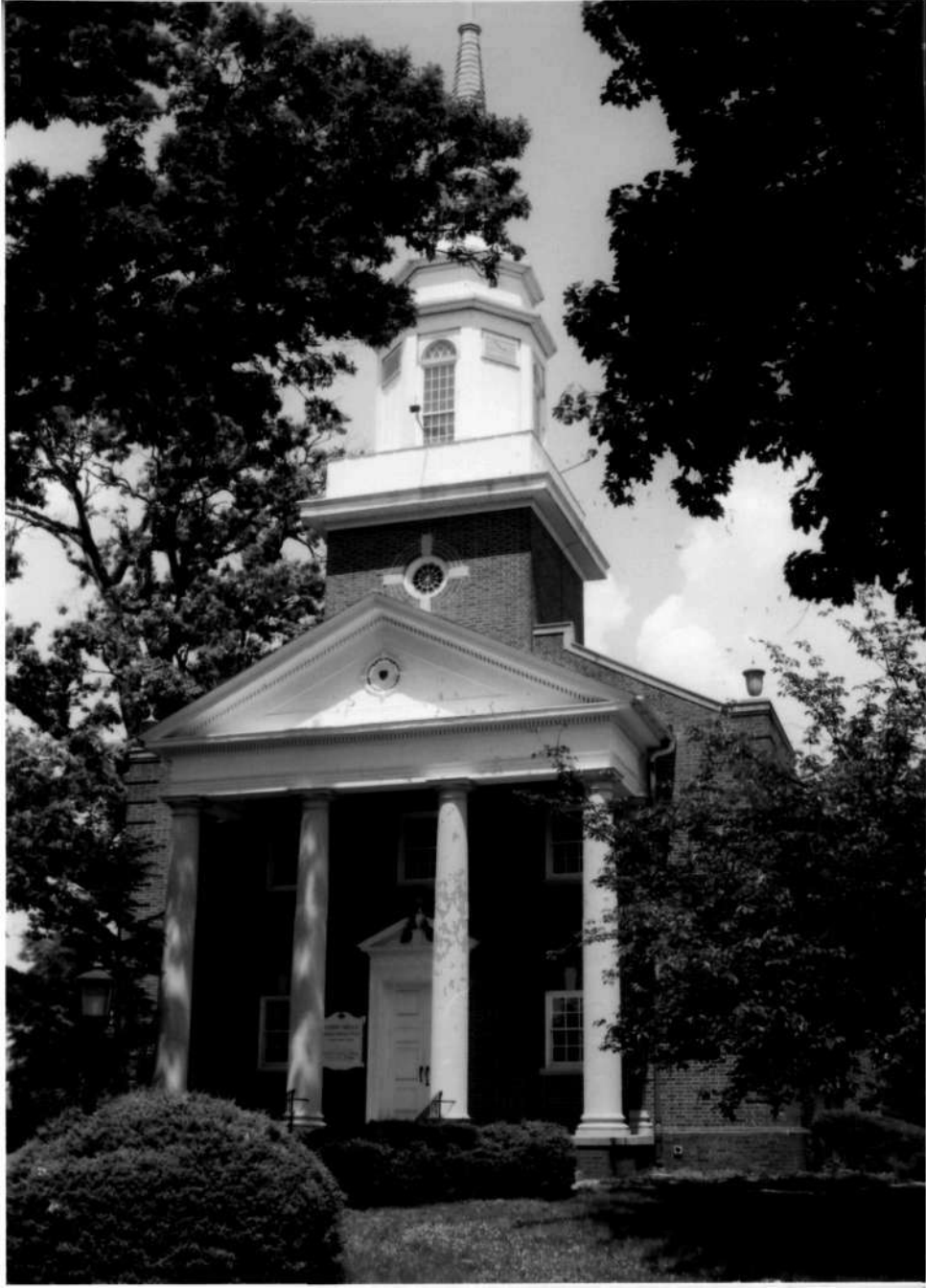
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services_____
Date_____
Reviewer, National Register Program_____
Date



Second English
Lutheran Church
MHP# B-5104

Baltimore
West

FREDERICK 38 MI.
PINE ORCHARD 7.2 MI.



B-5104

Second English Lutheran Church

Baltimore City, MD

Kate Farnham

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6/8/2005

MD SHPO

View to N. main church

#1 of 2 003

1160



B-5104

Second English Lutheran Church

Baltimore City, MD

Kate Farnham

6/8/2005

MD SHPO

View to NE, Sunday School wing extensions

#2 of 2 004

1461